

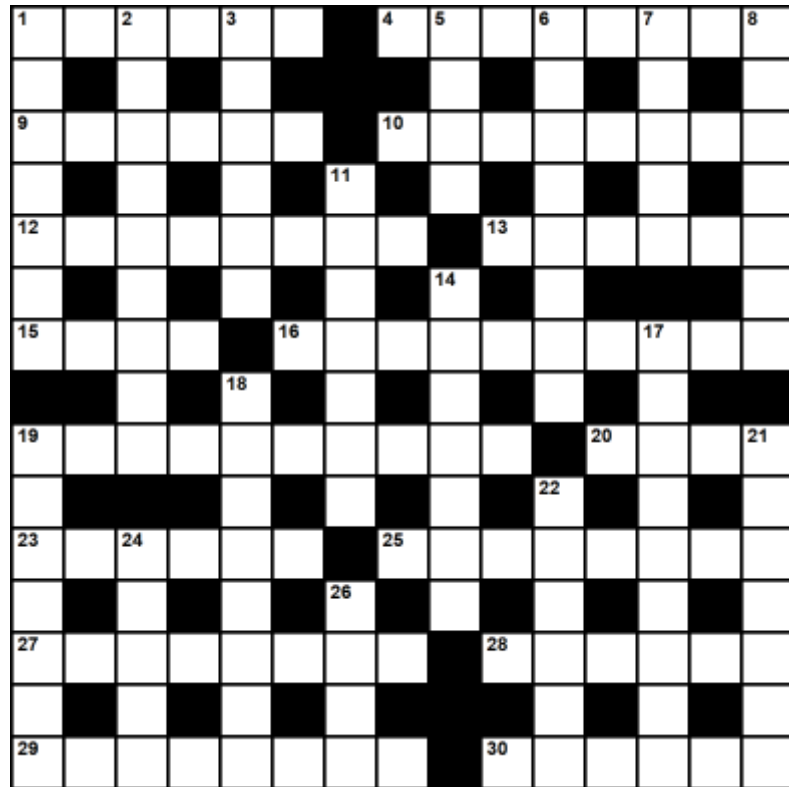
Are you familiar with (British-style) cryptic crosswords? Here is one you can attempt over the mince pies and brandy. Some clues require a little knowledge of Nectarine, or computing. But I have followed the traditional ("Ximenean") rules of cryptic clue construction, so it's mainly wordplay.

Across

- 1 Bird heard Beat producing 10 (6)
- 4 Possibly dragqueens.com is natural place to visit (8)
- 9 10 included in fine crossword (6)
- 10 Artist's Party contests hospital department (8)
- 12 Tux meeting Accidental, frequent Necta requester (8)
- 13 American murderer to enter with difficulty (4,2)
- 15 Point of return from C — or sea! (4)
- 16 Half-writes Soundtracker scan for timing hardware (10)
- 19 Discerning consumer (like nyingen) ruined vintage era (10)
- 20 Self-satisfied scener making ugly game intros (4)
- 23 Wise bird in Department of Energy going back for 10 (6)
- 25 Back-to-front Commodore sound chip fitted... died... out of action (8)
- 27 "Space Debris" missing? That isn't important (2,6)
- 28 She studied double sulphate and sodium (6)
- 29 Baby mama's giving one-star ratings (8)
- 30 10's musical interval diminished by seventh (6)

Down

- 1 Elvis MOD coming up is VNV Nation track (7)
- 2 Copper going after game remix site: first R-Type, then Halo found (9)



- 3 Amiga leader Romeo Knight accepted into Cosine — family of 5? (6)
- 5 Scrap IBM 286 PC with no mike (4)
- 6 Swedish Necta not feeling so good? Keep it quiet (4,4)
- 7 Zine release of "Children" (5)
- 8 10 modified linter to support header file extension (7)
- 11 Pouët — having ejected alien — getting ryegrass, oddly, from drink suppliers (7)
- 14 Like mirrorbird, a regular jerk at 19, perhaps (7)
- 17 Deadline, where Follin is taking "Final Hyperbase" to the max... (4,5)
- 18 ...basically like a one-starred song in the statistics (2,6)
- 19 State of fiery Sicilian in text editor (7)
- 21 Shoot rabid hound that turned up before Nordlicht opening (7)
- 22 Whiteness: privileged beginning, having everything plus alternative (6)
- 24 West Pointer group of which Melli17 is not a member (5)
- 26 '80s style demonstrated by Super Mario (4)